

Commerce. With his wife Clara, he also opened Family Fair, a gift and candy store, as well as Buster's Ice Cream and Coffee Shop, which both immediately became instant South Pasadena landmarks. He also helped to start the weekly Farmers' Market in the Mission West District in 1999.

Dick was a man respected and admired by his colleagues and peers. Serving on the South Pasadena City Council from 1989 to 1997, he was admired for both his integrity and courage, always voting his conscience. Dick called South Pasadena a "kind of an oasis" and sought to preserve the small town characteristics that made it unique. Those who worked with him considered themselves fortunate, and as current Mayor Odom Stamps has acknowledged, Dick has "huge shoes that no one person will even remotely fill."

He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1922 and graduated from Boston University in 1943. He then entered the Naval Reserve, serving during World War II in the Pacific theater as an ensign on a mine-sweeper. After WWII, he joined the FBI working specifically on Mafia cases and investigating the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. He retired from the FBI in 1977, founding Family Fair that same year.

I want to express my sincere condolences to his entire family. And sadly, this tremendous family lost another member in the last few days. Dick's eldest son, Amedee III, passed away on Monday morning. My heart goes out to the entire Richards family, Dick's wife Clara, 2 sons, 6 daughters, and 15 grandchildren.

In this time of immense grief, I hope that our community is comforted in knowing that Dick's legacy as a devoted public servant will live on in the vibrant "oasis" that he created in South Pasadena.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, AND HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH MARCH 28, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, and the Honorable WAYNE T. GILCHREST to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through March 28, 2006.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 404a), I am transmitting a report prepared by my Administration on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 16, 2006.

AMERICA CAN DO BETTER

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today and yesterday, we spent time on the floor of the House trying to construct a legislative initiative in the emergency supplemental to rebuild lives of Americans. We also attempted to respond to the rising crisis in Iraq. And I rise today to simply say that I know that America can do better.

In the course of that debate, I heard a story of a woman whose husband is in Iraq, and she is looking to try to understand where the funding is going, or where are the monies that have been appropriated going, because her husband is writing back and telling her about contaminated water and lack of equipment.

And then of course, I met a mother in my district who wondered why her son had to be redeployed for the third time to Iraq. I know America can do better. I am hoping as this emergency supplemental makes its way to the United States Senate that our colleagues, working with the administration, will understand that it is time now to redeploy our troops to bring them home in the honor and victory that they deserve, and then, of course, invest in the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast and not causing the stigmatizing of any of those who have suffered the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, and certainly provide the funding that the State of Texas needs once and for all, a State that has been impacted in a devastating way as we host those who are in need. It is time to do better for Americans.

□ 1845

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DRAKE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will ap-

pear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NEW YORK TROOPER ANDREW SPERR

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I request permission to take Mr. JONES' time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Speaker pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor New York State Trooper Andrew Sperr. Each person who wears a badge walks a thin blue line between life and death. Their families wonder when their police officer reports for duty, if that person will return home.

On March 1, 2006, Trooper Sperr did not return. He was shot and killed in the line of duty during a blazing gun fight with bank robbers in Big Flats, New York. Just after noon, Andrew Sperr stopped to investigate a suspicious pickup truck on the side of the road. As he approached the vehicle, the robbery suspects opened the door and opened fire on him, striking him multiple times. At least one round struck him in the right side above his body armor.

He was a dedicated lawman, so Trooper Sperr was able to return fire, and he wounded both of the suspects, which eventually led to their arrest, even though he was mortally wounded himself. Andrew Sperr was 33 years of age. He was from Greece, New York, and he had been a member of the New York State police force for 10 years.

Though he had no kids of his own, he was greatly involved in lives of his 10 siblings and their kids, and was godfather to several of his nieces and nephews. He was known as AJ to close family and friends, and he was remembered as always being the center of all activity.

He spent his free time on his 80-acre farm in Steuben County, New York. He loved the outdoors and in his other free time he was a hunter and a wildlife photographer. As a young kid, Andrew Sperr had wanted to serve his community by becoming a peace officer.

In his life and his death, service was his mission. Friends family and co-workers remember him as a compassionate public servant who generally cared about the people he came in contact with on a daily basis, no matter who they were. He had recently won the outstanding trooper award for the second year in a row.

When terrorists struck the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, Andrew Sperr was there. He volunteered to go and help the people of New York, as well as the citizens of the United States, by providing law enforcement in the aftermath of that attack on America.

Trooper Sperr also traveled to Louisiana this past fall in Hurricane Katrina and helped those folks in that area, neighbors.

Madam Speaker, as a former judge in Texas, I have had the opportunity to speak several times in New York and to the troopers at the New York State Police Academy in Albany, New York. After we got through the language barrier, I found these right-thinking Americans to be passionate about protecting the citizens of New York State and bringing outlaws to justice.

Trooper Andrew Sperr was proud to be a member of this group of law officers. Trooper Andrew Sperr died doing what he wanted to do, protecting, serving and defending the people. As thousands of his fellow State troopers, law enforcement personnel, friends and family, mourn his loss, our prayers go out to his family for allowing his life to be sacrificed for the rest of us.

Andrew J. Sperr was a dedicated officer and a compassionate friend to all. He served with distinction and honor, and he will be missed. America and Americans were better because of the life of Andrew Sperr. He wore the badge and proudly took the oath to protect and serve.

Madam Speaker, peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between safety and anarchy. They are all that stands between the people and the barbarians. Trooper Andrew Sperr died protecting the rest of us from those outlaws.

So God bless those that wear the badge of the American peace officer. That's just the way it is.

PORT SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, many Americans are breathing a sigh of relief. They believe we have resolved the issue of port security, but that is far from the truth. True, for now, the idea of United Arab Emirates operating some of our port terminals has abated. But this is very much just a very small issue regarding port security.

The fact is, our ports are probably today very little less secure than pre-9/11. The grades that the 9/11 Commission give to this administration's efforts on port security were generally failing.

The United States has bound itself to an international agreement through the International Maritime Organization that allowed secret ownership of ships. Osama bin Laden could have a fleet of his own. We are not allowed to know. They fly under flags that countries that provide no supervision, in fact, in the case of Liberia, until recently, didn't even have a government, and barely exist.

They have crews of unknown identity. Yes, they send us a name about the ship lands, but is that really the person. Is that really the background.

Do we have fingerprints? No. We don't know who the people are on those ships. The cargo on those ships is not secure. The containers are not secure. It would cost a few dollars to secure a container from loading to unloading in the United States of America and scan it. The Bush administration thinks that is a cost that we cannot afford or would unnecessarily impinge upon free commerce.

Then, of course, the technology, the technology that we don't have at the ports, to adequately scan these containers. Now, we cannot breathe a sigh of relief. Our ports are not yet secure. We depend upon a transmitted manifest. Now, I can just see that the Osama bin Laden line with the terrorist crew is going to send a manifest that says this container has 199 concrete bird baths and one small tactical nuclear weapon, and our intelligence people might even ask to open that container. Who knows, they might not. So we need to do a tremendous amount more.

Then there is another issue. The Bush administration, while Congress is away next week, is intending to put forward a rule that would allow foreign interests to control United States airlines in contravention of a very explicit law which prohibits control by foreign interests. The Bush Administration, using their inherent powers, has decided to reinterpret the meaning of the word control and say Congress just meant they can't control safety and security. We will wall that off.

How are you going to wall it off when you have foreign ownership of a U.S. airline, foreign management and a U.S. airline, foreign board of directors of a formerly U.S. airline, and you are going to wall off safety and security? Oh, come on, give me a break. As the chief operating officer of Continental said, hey, they are against this. They said, hey, I am head of safety, I am the COO, safety and security report to me. I can get someone to do whatever I want in that job, or I will fire them.

That is an extraordinary risk. It risks our civilian reserve air fleet, where we move our troops overseas. Just imagine a future deployment, say to maybe the Taiwan area with a problem with China, and the U.S. troops could be flying on an airline that was owned and controlled by Chinese communist government interests under this rule, which the Bush Administration wants to push through. Or it could be a UAE crew from Dubai, because they are the fastest expanding long-haul airline in the world, with all of their billions of surplus dollars.

We cannot rest easy, because the Bush Administration is continuing to dismantle critical infrastructure. We need a general review of critical infrastructure in this country, and we need to safeguard it. They are saying, no, we shouldn't do that. They are hoping to put the Dubai deal off, you know, and that we will not pay any attention to the threats at our ports or the threats

to our airlines and aviation industry, or maybe even under the Bush administration, we will sell our nuclear plants to foreign interests.

Wouldn't that be spiffy if we allowed foreign interests to own our nuclear plants? That would be really, really great for security here in the United States of America. America should not be for sale. It is a symptom of a failed trade policy, and this Bush administration just wants to do more of the same. It is time for change. It is time for new trade policy. It is time to keep bringing jobs home. It is time to make America secure, and it is time to secure our assets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMARKS ON THE IRISH PEACE PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening as we approach the St. Patrick's Day recess to remind this body of the continued struggle for peace and justice in the North of Ireland. For many in America of Irish ancestry, this is a time of celebration, as it should be. However, we must also recognize that the fight for freedom and equality on the island of Ireland is still being waged.

Tonight I want to remember and commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Easter Uprising and the proclamation of an Irish Republic at the General Post Office in 1916. The brave men and women who took up arms against England vowed to fight for religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities for all Irish citizens.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the deaths of 10 brave men who died on a hunger strike in Long Kesh. Their courage and that of the women of Armagh inspired countless individuals and made the world take notice of the cruel and discriminatory policies of the British government in the North of Ireland. Their sacrifice proved the shortsightedness of a British policy criminalization.

Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity today to meet once again with Gerry Adams, whom I admire so much, for his continued determination to educate the Members of Congress about the situation in Northern Ireland. Because of the sacrifice of so many dedicated individuals like Gerry Adams over the years, we have seen great strides on the quest for an Ireland of equals.

The historic ceasefire by the IRA in 1994, followed by the Good Friday accords signed in 1998, created tremendous progression in the north. The